

## PLIGHTED TO JULIA DENT.

Man Who Was Once Engaged to Mrs. E. S. Grant III.

Alfred Sanford, a unique character who was supervising Inspector of steamboats for the port of St. Louis during President Grant's first administration, and who was engaged to wed Julia Dent, now Gen. Grant's widow, is a patient at the city hospital, says a St. Louis exchange. He is suffering from pneumonia, and Superintendent Sutler considers his recovery doubtful. When the war broke out for two years Sanford piloted the famous confederate steamer Fred Kennett. Then he went over to the union side and served the remaining two years.

During Grant's first administration Sanford was pilot on one of the leading steamboat lines. He was making \$250 a month. One Saturday night he went to the office of the company and tendered his resignation. When reason was asked he would not give it. He packed his valise and went to Washington, D. C. He went direct to the white house and sent his card to Mrs. Grant. He had not seen her since the day their engagement was broken many years before.

Mrs. Grant received him and gave him a warm welcome. After a long talk over old times Sanford told Mrs. Grant that he had tired of running on the river and he wanted to be appointed Inspector of steamboats for the port of St. Louis. Mrs. Grant promised to intercede for him, and in a few days the announcement was made that Alfred Sanford had been appointed to the position by President Grant. For many years Sanford held positions of prominence on the Mississippi river, but misfortune overtook him recently. His wife died and his children, grown up, left him, and now he lies an object of charity in a public institution.

## POETRY AND SCIENCE

## A Blank Verse Description of the Subtile Magnetic Fluid.

Philosophers and physicists are commonly supposed to be too deeply engrossed in dry facts and figures to have time for the poetical interpretation of science, but the definition of electricity given to an inquiring young woman by the late Galileo Ferraris is direct contradiction of this. To her question he answered:

"Since Maxwell has demonstrated that the vibrations of light might consist of periodical changes of electro-magnetic forces, and as Hertz has given Maxwell's theory an experimental basis with his proof of the similarity existing between electro-magnetic waves and light waves, the belief becomes more and more firmly established that this light-conveying ether and the medium in which the electric and magnetic forces act are identical. Therefore I may well reply to the question, O studious and charming maiden: 'What is electricity?' that it is not only the fearful agent which at times lights up the heavens suddenly and startles the soul with its loud clapping of thunder, but also the life-giving and life-awakening cause which, as light and heat, brings forth the magic color and the breath of life, which transmits to thy heart the pulsations of the universe and awakens in thy soul the charm of glances and smiles."

## FEEDING HABITS OF FISHES.

## How the Chub and the Trout Seize Upon a Wandering Worm.

Worms are occasionally fed at the aquarium to such fishes as eat them in nature, including suckers and chubs and sunfish and trout, and some others. The worms are put into the tanks at the top, to sink gradually through the water until they are nipped up by some fish.

Dominion officials say that the decline of this fishery can be traced directly to American depredations. A small corner of the Lake of the Woods lies within American territory, and while the Canadian authorities say they allowed only 40 nets altogether in the lake itself, the Americans had not less than 200 or 300, and were catching, in their own territory, a much larger supply than their Canadian competitors.

Therefore, when the dominion government saw that their efforts were futile to cope with the depredations of the Americans, they gave their own lessers a free hand to take all the sturgeon they could capture.

## COST OF A BATANGA WIFE.

## Extravagance of a Young Man Matrimonially Inclined.

There is a list of goods which was recently paid by a young man in our employ to a father-in-law who had an eye for business before the young man secured his wife, says the Church at Home and Abroad. And the time will never come when his father-in-law will not regard it as his perfect right to ask his son-in-law for anything more he may want. The list is thus: Eighty neptunes, five guns, 32 marks (about \$5) worth of cloth, three coats, five cases of gin, three bags of powder, two zinc trunks, two umbrellas, one coat, two chairs, two tall hats, three felt hats, one ring, four shirts, one tin of sugar, eight drinking glasses, 12 plates, one lamp, two brass kettles, four small iron pots, one knife, 23 pipes, two jugs, one large iron pot, 30 brass wires, four pairs of scissors, and about 23 marks in cash (\$5.75).

Quite a long, costly list for this country, when it is remembered that this young man received but 20 marks (about \$5) per month for his wages, upon which he must clothe himself as well as divide with others. When the father-in-law concludes that the son-in-law has paid him enough, for the time being, for his daughter, then he gives her over to the young man, and she becomes his wife.

ELECTRIC CABS A SUCCESS.

One Hundred Additional Vehicles Will Soon Be in Use in New York.

The property and rights of the Electric Carriage company, which has been operating 14 electric cabs in New York city, have been taken over by the Electric Vehicle company. The last-named company intends to go into the electric cab business on a larger scale. It was announced that the company had placed contracts for 50 hansom cabs. It is expected the new carriages will be in operation early in the spring. President Rice stated that the experience of his company has shown the practicality of the electric vehicle.

HIS WEDDING TRIP.

It was a long time ago, but even now he sometimes hears of it.

"The day I was married," said a Lewiston (Me.) man, "a thin crust had formed over the snow all over the country. The wind was blowing a gale, and my wife and myself started for our new home at Sabattus."

"Just beyond Thorne's Corner the wind took the box in which my wife's wedding hat reposed, and whirled it out of the sleigh upon the crust. I got out and chased it."

"I kept just ahead of me for a quarter of a mile, and went rolling over and over across the Lewiston bog. The wind cut through me like a knife, but I kept on and last saw it catch on a hard-hack bush. I made a flying leap to catch it back, only to find that my wife had been unable to stand the cold wind and had driven on."

"I walked into Sabattus taking the wedding hat, and there met my men friends."

"I sometimes hear of the incident now."

Electric Lights Aid Singers.

Singers, actors and public speakers, since the introduction of the electric light, have less trouble with their voices and are less likely to catch cold; their throats are not so parched and they feel better. This is due to the air not being vitiated and the temperature more even.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NILE-ORLEANS

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## LISBON'S EARTHQUAKES.

## A City That Is Raised Over a Sepulcher.

It is impossible to be long in Lisbon, even nowadays, without meditating, vainly enough, about the great earthquake. The city is far more massive now than it was in 1755. The thickness of the granite walls of its churches and houses is laudable from many aspects. But this same substantiality would prove incredibly murderous if the earthquake of 1755 were to repeat itself. Perhaps they do well to have confidence; perhaps they have done amiss. Viewed from the Tagus, Lisbon of 1897 seems to offer tremendous scope for a new seismic ruin. How her churches and palaces on the hilltops and slopes might be overturned upon the houses and palaces between her hills! With anything like the same destructive force as in 1755, Lisbon would now be rendered a scene of almost irredeemable chaos, and the loss of life would, of course, be appalling. But these are, one may hope, mere dreams inspired by the skeleton ribs of the church of the Carmo on one of the city's hilltops. The earthquake wrecked this church, like so many others, and it is preserved as a ruin, says Chambers' Journal.

Some one estimated the loss of property here in the earthquake at £536,000. The figures do not seem modest, when one remembers that Portugal was then a rich country. They include also the solid little sum of £4,000,000, the value of the king's diamonds, which went with one of the royal palaces. These diamonds alone would now be extremely acceptable to Portugal's impoverished exchequer. If ever a city was raised over a sepulcher, modern Lisbon was. But, of course, it is late in the day to be plaintive on the subject, even if it were worth while at any time.

## THE STURGEON CATCH.

## Canadian Say We Are to Blame for Depletion in Lake of the Woods.

One of the most valuable of the Canadian island fisheries was the sturgeon catch in the Lake of the Woods. It is now learned that this splendid fish is nearly exterminated in the lake as a result of the unchecked ravages of fishermen during the last few seasons. It is reported that as much as three or four carloads of offal and eggs frequently pass over the Canadian Pacific railroad from Rat Portage in one week.

Five or six years ago the eggs of the sturgeon were worth \$10 to \$15 a keg. The demand has now increased the price to \$50 a keg, says the New York Sun.

Dominion officials say that the decline of this fishery can be traced directly to American depredations. A small corner of the Lake of the Woods lies within American territory, and while the Canadian authorities say they allowed only 40 nets altogether in the lake itself, the Americans had not less than 200 or 300, and were catching, in their own territory, a much larger supply than their Canadian competitors.

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## FEEDING A PUMPKIN.

## Nebraska Farmer's Successful Scheme to Win a Ten-Dollar Prize.

"Say, did you know that pumpkins could be fed and made to grow to an enormous size?" asked a retired farmer of the Omaha Bee man.

"It's a fact," he continued. "I remember one spring that my father was elected secretary of a county agricultural society and he told me that he was going to offer a prize of ten dollars for the largest pumpkin exhibited at the fair. I determined to get that prize and I did."

"How did I do it? By raising the biggest pumpkin, of course. I selected a vine that looked unusually thrifty and gave it extra care until pumpkins had formed about as large as a baseball. Selecting one of these I began to feed it. Yes, feed it. I cut a gash in the stem and ran a soft cotton rag through it. Then I covered the place with wax. Every night I set a pan of milk on each side of the stem and put an end of the rag in each pan. That pumpkin would drink up that milk faster than a pig. It would absorb from a quart to three pints every night and it began to swell at an enormous rate. When the fair opened I loaded that pumpkin into a wagon by the aid of a derrick—it weighed 308 pounds—and took it down to agricultural hall. Of course I got the ten dollars.

"I have often wondered how many pies that would have made. Estimating 33 per cent waste, there were about 202 pounds of pie material and 5 1/2 ounces to the pie would make."

But the reporter was too busy to hear the rest. He was figuring on feeding a watermelon on port wine and astonishing the world.

## GALLANT CONDUCT OF PIPER.

## Instances of Bravery Shown in Perilous Quarters.

There have been several instances of bravery similar to that of the gallant Gordon piper at Dargai, who continued to play after both his legs had been shot off, says the London Chronicle. One of these, which occurred during the Peninsular wars, was almost identical with that of the capture of the Dargai ridge. It was at Vimiera, when the then Seventy-first Highlanders hurled themselves against the French as a counter-stroke to the attempt of Kellerman to recover six captured guns, and drove back their assailants in headlong rout. When the Highlanders were advancing Piper Stewart, of the grenadier company, fell, his thigh being broken by a musket shot. Yet he refused to quit the field, and, sitting on a knapsack, continued to inspire his comrades with a pibroch, saying: "De'il ha' me, lads, if ye shall want for music!" For this he received a handsome stand of pipes from the Highland society of London.

Again, there is the historical incident of Pipe Major Mackay, who, when his regiment had formed square to receive a charge of French cavalry at Waterloo, stepped outside the square and strode round the bayonet bristling ranks playing his most inspiring pibroch in the presence of his comrades—an incident which forms the subject of one of Mr. Bogle's finest battle pictures, exhibited at the academy a year or two ago.

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